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WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION IN 1956

Summary

World meat production in 1956 continued to increase, and set a new high record. Production in the 42 principal producing countries of the world, excluding Communist China, was 92.5 billion pounds in 1956, 4 percent more than a year earlier. Production was 35 percent greater than the averages for both 1946-50 and 1934-38, although Eastern Europe's production was under prewar.

There were fairly sharp gains in meat output in South America and the Union of South Africa. Moderate gains were reported in North America. There were slight increases in Europe and the Middle East, but output declined 2 percent from 1955 in Australia and New Zealand.

MEAT 1/: Summary of world production, 1956 with comparisons

Continent or area	Averages		1955	1956	Percentage change	
	1934-38	1946-50			1946-50	1955 to 1956
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Percent	Percent
North America 2/.....	18,606	25,691	30,855	32,208	25	4
Western Europe 3/.....	20,276	16,206	25,118	25,686	58	2
Eastern Europe 4/.....	7,450	5,600	6,600	6,650	19	1
U.S.S.R.	8,775	5/	5/	5/	--	-
Middle East 6/.....	1,115	1,327	1,674	1,683	27	1
Philippines, Rep. of.....	209	125	207	213	70	3
South America 7/.....	8,358	10,047	10,456	11,409	14	9
Union of South Africa.....	671	917	970	1,066	16	10
Oceania 8/.....	3,211	3,338	4,130	4,067	22	-2
Total	68,671	68,751	88,860	92,482	35	4

1/ Carcass meat: beef, veal, pork; excluding lard, mutton, lamb, goatmeat and horsemeat. Excludes variety, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Canada, Mexico, United States and Cuba. 3/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia.

4/ Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania.

5/ Estimates included in the total. 6/ Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

7/ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. 8/ Australia and New Zealand.

Conditions have favored a steady increase in world meat production since the end of World War II. Expanded economic activity in the principal meat consuming countries has increased demand for meat. Adequate feed supplies and grazing conditions have also encouraged livestock production. In recent years meat production in the principal producing and consuming countries has increased faster than the population. But meat prices continue relatively high.

The upward trend in meat output reflects the continued increase in livestock numbers. In early 1957, hog numbers were estimated to be 31 percent above prewar (1936-40), cattle 24 percent, and sheep 23 percent greater. Conditions seem favorable for a continued increase in numbers in 1957.

World meat production is likely to continue to rise at about the rate of recent years. However, due to the large livestock numbers, a sharper increase in meat output is possible if a number of the important producing countries should simultaneously step up slaughter because of feed shortages or economic conditions.

North America: Meat output in the United States continued upward in 1956 and reached a new all-time peak of 28 billion pounds -- 4 percent greater than the previous record of 1955. Beef and veal production reached a new record of 16.1 billion pounds, exceeding the 1955 record by 7 percent. Pork production was moderately above the average for 1946-50, and was 2 percent greater than 1955. The United States is by far the largest meat producing country. The United States probably accounts for about 28 percent of the world's output, including production in Communist China.

Slaughter continued to rise moderately during 1956 in Mexico, Cuba, and Canada. Production probably is at new high levels in each of the 3 countries.

Western Europe: Production in Western Europe has increased materially since World War II and increased 2 percent from 1955 to 1956. During 1956, production rose materially in Italy, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and the United Kingdom. Slight to moderate gains were reported for Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and West Germany. Production declined moderately during 1956 in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Portugal. Fairly large decreases in production took place in Sweden and Ireland.

South America: Livestock slaughter increased sharply in South America during 1956. Production in Argentina rose substantially. Production rose moderately in Uruguay, but in Brazil it decreased slightly.

Africa: The Union of South Africa's meat output increased 10 percent last year. The removal of price controls on cattle encouraged slaughter; however, slaughter of hogs and sheep and lambs also rose. Production in Egypt did not change much from 1955 to 1956.

MEAT 1/ Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton, lamb and goat meat, and total meat in specified countries in 1956, with comparison

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton, Lamb and Goat			Total 2/			1956 as percent of		
	Average 1946-50 Million Pounds	1955 Million Pounds	1956 3/ Million Pounds	Average 1946-50 Million Pounds	1955 Million Pounds	1956 3/ Million Pounds	Average 1946-50 Million Pounds	1955 Million Pounds	1956 3/ Million Pounds	Average 1946-50 Million Pounds	1955 Million Pounds	1956 3/ Million Pounds	1946-50 Percent	1955 Percent	1956 Percent
North America:															
Canada	1,042	1,279	1,403	890	1,019	1,023	48	34	34	1,980	2,332	2,460	124	105	124
Mexico	723	747	778	262	368	386	50	45	46	1,035	1,160	1,210	117	104	117
United States	10,978	15,147	16,094	10,541	10,991	11,221	743	758	741	22,282	26,896	28,056	126	104	126
Cuba	375	380	388	37	85	91	2	2	3	414	467	482	116	103	116
Europe:															
Austria	158	261	271	232	421	441	10	3	3	407	697	727	179	104	179
Belgium	238	405	383	267	401	436	7	7	5	559	863	870	153	101	153
Denmark	272	325	362	520	1,109	1,032	7	2	2	820	1,415	1,415	173	97	173
Finland	91	128	128	109	116	114	11	14	11	220	266	262	119	98	119
France	1,937	3,028	2,960	1,350	1,960	2,170	150	262	266	3,613	5,446	5,607	155	103	155
Germany, Western	5/ 1,060	1,855	1,869	1,530	3,331	3,403	5/ 50	41	39	2,705	5,283	5,364	198	102	198
Greece	36	41	41	35	46	47	96	149	144	161	231	232	144	100	144
Ireland	158	160	148	129	190	166	40	56	58	327	406	372	114	92	114
Italy	522	920	950	635	750	920	104	100	100	1,296	1,830	2,030	157	111	157
Netherlands	227	457	443	294	733	760	13	13	13	555	1,230	1,243	224	101	224
Norway	87	120	104	70	110	118	30	37	33	193	272	260	135	96	135
Portugal	62	93	92	215	225	223	47	54	52	324	372	367	113	99	113
Sweden	261	325	275	311	408	409	7	44	4	637	765	713	112	93	112
Switzerland	173	206	214	118	224	242	4	8	8	336	447	473	141	106	141
United Kingdom	1,230	1,542	1,768	500	1,602	1,602	305	387	431	2,035	3,531	3,702	182	105	182
Yugoslavia	217	251	280	421	653	648	127	152	176	784	1,060	1,113	142	105	142
Asia:															
Turkey	208	309	306	49	181	222	307	386	-	5/ 515	695	-	-	-	-
Japan	110	288	306	87	154	150	neg	2	2	181	517	587	324	114	324
Philippines, Rep. of	5/ 33	48	58	15/ 87	154	150	3	3	2	5/ 125	207	213	170	103	170
South America:															
Argentina	4,284	4,614	5,545	391	336	419	510	456	408	5,215	5,406	6,372	122	118	122
Brazil	2,107	2,595	2,557	512	492	494	6/ 69	127	117	6/ 2,688	3,214	3,168	118	99	118
Chile	298	-	-	52	-	-	94	-	-	444	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	635	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	724	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	543	401	475	36	38	38	164	139	104	743	578	617	83	107	83
Africa:															
Union of South Africa	650	650	735	82	95	107	185	225	224	917	970	1,066	116	110	116
Oceania:															
Australia	1,226	1,677	1,656	210	218	203	701	868	769	2,137	2,763	2,628	123	95	123
New Zealand	409	505	561	84	87	90	708	775	788	1,201	1,367	1,439	120	105	120

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes variety meat and lard. 2/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 5/ Two to four year average. 6/ Excludes meat from farm slaughter. 7/ Years ending September 30.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Foreign Agricultural Service May, 1957.

Asia: Production of meat in Japan increased more than 300 percent since the end of World War II. This is largely due to greater availability of feed grains for livestock. Output in the Philippine Republic has also increased greatly over the same period.

Oceania: Total slaughter in Australia and New Zealand continued high in 1956, although production in Australia declined moderately from the preceding year. To take advantage of the good range and pasture situation, producers held cattle and sheep from slaughter.

U.S.S.R.: Meat production in the Soviet Union continues to increase. Reported 1956 output in state-controlled slaughterhouses increased 7 percent over 1955. The increase in meat output is in line with the steady increase in livestock numbers from their low point at the end of World War II. Production of meat in the U.S.S.R. is now estimated to be moderately above prewar.

Eastern Europe: Production data for Eastern Europe has been reappraised. New estimates have been made for prewar 1934-38, 1946-50, and later years. In the 6 countries in the area, meat production has increased considerably since the end of World War II, but has not reached prewar levels, judging by livestock numbers, apparent feed supplies, and persistent reports of meat shortages in the area.

Beef and veal production in 1956 made up 52 percent of the total production in the 42 countries. About 39.5 percent of total production was pork, and 8 percent lamb and mutton. Horsemeat accounted for less than 0.5 percent of the total.

Note on Methodology

In this report an attempt has been made to report meat production on the basis of the total dressed slaughter weight of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, lambs, and goats in each country. The meat production figures, therefore, include imported slaughter animals but exclude exports of live animals. Buffalo and horsemeat production is included in countries where such production is important. Pork production data include fatback but exclude allowances for the amount of raw fat rendered into lard. Data for other species include the usual quantity of carcass fats remaining on the carcass at the time of slaughter. Because of the various adjustments, the data do not always agree with that originally published by individual countries or with world summaries prepared by other organizations.

Data in the summary table relate to the same 42 countries throughout the range of years shown. It was estimated that in 1938, 41 of these countries produced around 97 percent of the output for 67 countries, excluding China. At the present time, it seems probable that the production in the 42 countries accounts for around 90 percent of the world's output including China.

MEAT: World production, 1956 with comparisons

Continent or area	Averages		1955	1956	Percentage change	
	1934-38:	1946-50:			1946-50 to 1956	1955 to 1956
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Percent	Percent
BEEF AND VEAL 1/						
North America 2/	9,470	13,118	17,553	18,663	42	6
Western Europe 3/	8,507	7,076	10,416	10,559	49	1
Eastern Europe 4/	2,225	1,400	1,565	1,575	13	1
U.S.S.R.	3,350	5/	5/	5/	--	-
Middle East 6/	421	575	731	728	27	-
Philippines, Rep. of	95	33	48	58	76	21
South America 7/	6,923	8,097	8,641	9,603	19	11
Union of South Africa	421	650	650	735	13	13
Oceania 8/	1,640	1,635	2,182	2,217	36	2
Total	33,052	35,359	45,436	47,913	36	5
PORK (EXCLUDING LARD) 1/						
North America 2/	8,163	11,730	12,463	12,721	8	2
Western Europe 3/	9,909	7,457	12,731	13,070	75	3
Eastern Europe 4/	4,855	3,850	4,675	4,710	22	1
U.S.S.R.	4,350	5/	5/	5/	--	-
Middle East 6/	1	4	4	4	--	-
Philippines, Rep. of	110	87	154	150	72	-3
South America 7/	808	1,066	1,000	1,084	2	8
Union of South Africa	64	82	95	107	30	13
Oceania 8/	304	294	305	293	--	-4
Total	28,564	26,270	35,427	36,614	39	3
MUTTON, LAMB AND GOAT 1/						
North America 2/	973	843	839	824	-2	-2
Western Europe 3/	1,494	1,228	1,495	1,572	28	5
Eastern Europe 4/	315	300	310	315	5	2
U.S.S.R.	1,075	5/	5/	5/	--	-
Middle East 6/	693	748	939	951	27	1
Philippines, Rep. of	2	3	3	2	33	-33
South America 7/	627	884	815	722	18	-11
Union of South Africa	186	185	225	224	21	--
Oceania 8/	1,267	1,409	1,643	1,557	11	-5
Total	6,632	6,625	7,469	7,417	12	-1

1/ Carcass meat - excludes variety meat. 2/ Canada, Mexico, United States and Cuba. 3/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. 4/ Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 5/ Estimates included in the total. 6/ Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Iran. 7/ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. 8/ Australia and New Zealand.

